

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 EB-07 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02 MC-02

COME-00 /061 W

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R 220510Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2198

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3967

FOR EA/ANP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MILI, NZ

SUBJ: REPORTED DISAPPROVAL BY EXIM BANK OF LOAN TO NEW ZEALAND

1. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JOHN ROBERTSON HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT ACCORDING TO THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK HAS TURNED DOWN NEW ZEALAND'S LATEST REQUEST FOR A CREDIT. ROBERTSON SAID HE WAS BOTH SURPRISED AND CONCERNED OVER THE TURN-DOWN, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT NEW ZEALAND HAS MAINTAINED A CREDIT WITH THE EXIM BANK FOR SEVERAL YEARS FOR THE PURCHASE OF AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ROBERTSON SAID THE GNZ HAD GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO HAVING THE EXIM BANK CREDIT AND THE CONVENIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY THIS PROVIDED NEW ZEALAND IN PURCHASING AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING SOME CLARIFICATION OF THIS MATTER WHICH WE MIGHT PASS ON TO SECRETARY ROBERTSON. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, NEW ZEALAND HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY OF AIRCRAFT, THROUGH EXIM BANK CREDIT FACILITIES. THUS, LOSS OF THE CREDIT WOULD ALSO BE A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN TO THE EMBASSY.

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